



Grüss Gott

Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses Club

December 2002 Newsletter



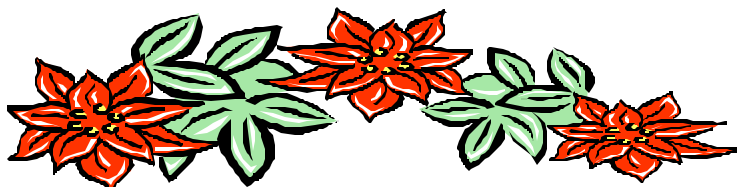
Dear Ladies,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy holiday season. I know this is a hectic time of the year for most everyone, and I would like to thank each of you for all you do for this community. The OCSC is an active force here, providing assistance and volunteers virtually every place in the community and I have all of you to thank for that.

I would like to remind you that we will be welcoming our new Honorary President and Vice President at our December Function. I hope everyone will be able to come out and meet and greet these two very special new friends. Also at this function and back by popular demand, we will be having our 2nd annual bag auction. Bring an item to donate and get free tickets to bid on other items. You can also buy additional tickets. Place your ticket (or tickets) in the bag next to the items you would like to win. If your name is drawn, you get to take home that item. Simple, easy, and fun. (If you win that is, right Sara) We will be having special entertainment, and it promises to be a true holiday treat. So make your reservations early.

In closing, I would like to remind each of you to take some time for yourselves this season and remember what is truly important. I would like to end with a short essay that I think puts it all into perspective.

Until next time.
Donni





OCSC Governing Board Roster

President:	Donni Hodgkins
1st Vice President:	Lisa Hudson
2nd Vice President:	Bonnie Collins
3rd Vice President:	Becky Davis
Corresponding Secretary:	Donna Riehl
Recording Secretary:	Sandy Padrick
Operations Treasurer:	Vacant
Welfare Treasurer:	Linda Caton
Welfare:	D'Lynn Phelps
Parliamentarian:	Bobby Kellner
Membership:	Diane Murtha
Co-Reservations:	Londa Gemeinhardt
Co-Reservations:	Kelly Roth
Luncheons:	Liz McKendrick
Programs:	Vacant
Hospitality:	Valerie Rydell
Bazaar Chair:	Sherri Funk
Ways & Means:	Pattie Jones
	Deann Reff
Newsletter:	Kelley Otto
Publicity:	Tracy Neal
Special Events:	Alisa Armstead
	Cordelia Williams
Historian:	Sara Kopf
Tours:	Therese DeSanto
Thrift Shop Liason:	Mary Ellen Lyon



Honorary & Advisory Board Members

Honorary President:	Mary Ann Fulford
Honorary Vice President:	
Senior Air Force Advisor:	Pamela Rassmussen
Senior Army Advisor:	Madelaine Darden
Senior Navy Advisor:	Jeannie Calhoun
Senior Marine Advisor:	Gail Baczkowski
Senior Civilian Advisor:	Jennie Allen
6th ASG Advisor:	Iris Stubblefield

I would like to invite everyone to the December luncheon to welcome our new advisers, Marilyn Wald and Becky Sylvester. The December program is going to be a Silent Raffle like we had last year. Bring an item to donate to the raffle table and get 10 free tickets. Extra tickets will be available for \$1 a strip.

I would also like to thank Sherri Funk for a wonderful trip to Turkey. She did an outstanding job putting that trip all together. We had a blast!

Merry Christmas,
Becky Davis

BOARD VACANCY

We desperately need an Operations Treasurer and a Programs Chairperson. These positions are an important part of our board. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please contact:

Donni Hodgkins
0711-674-2091

NEWSFLASH

Everyone's addresses has changed. Now, in addition to the zip, you have to add the box number as the PLUS four.....example.....09128-1300 because the box number is 1300. People that have unit addresses use the last four of the unit number **if** you don't also have a box number. If you have a two or three digit box number, you just add zeros in front of it.



Happy Holidays to OCSC Members,

I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all of you and your families for a happy and safe Holiday season.

Thank you all for supporting this community through your membership. And aren't the OCSC functions great! Luncheons, mini-bazaars, and don't forget about the big Spring bazaar coming in March of 2003.

The Patch Thrift Shop would like to remind you that we are a great place to find Christmas bargains, so stop by to see us. Thanks to Julie and the crew for doing a great job at the Thrift!

Our Ways and Means ladies have done a fantastic job this year bringing us beautiful accent pillows and other merchandise to purchase at our functions. Thanks to Patty and Deanne.

Our Welfare committee is ready to help the community with financial support for its events and needs. Thanks to D'Lynn for doing a great job with Welfare distribution!

Last but not least, it's time to start thinking about volunteering for the OCSC Spring Bazaar. What a great time we all have participating in the major fundraiser for the year (not to mention the early volunteer SHOPPING!) Thanks to Sherri and the whole bazaar team for getting the big ball rolling!

Again, I hope you all have a wonderful time with your family and friends this season, and remember, you are appreciated by the OCSC.

Bonnie Collins
2nd Vice President



WELFARE COMMITTEE

In October, the Welfare Committee met to review four welfare requests.

The OCSC board approved disbursements to the following private organizations:

Cub Scout Pack #3, Patch High School French Club, Olympic Development Program, and AWAG. The committee also approved the donation of 3 irons, 3 ironing boards, and 3 cutting boards to the Panzer reserve duty quarters.

D'Lynn Phelps
Welfare



IF I HAD MY LIFE TO LIVE OVER - by Erma Bombeck

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have sat on the lawn with my grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it ... live it ..and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff.

Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what

Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us.

Let's think about what God HAS blessed us with. And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, as we only have one shot at this and then it's gone.

I hope you all have a blessed day



The 6th ASG Army Family Action Plan AFAP Conference

When: 23 January 2003 from 0800 – 1630
(Light morning refreshments and lunch is provided)

Where: Swabian Special Events Center

Who: Everyone is welcome to participate (all branches of the service, civilians, retired, active duty, spouses, & teens) but **participants must pre-register to attend**. Currently positions are available for Delegates, Recorders, and Issue Support Persons (ISP's). Childcare will be paid for if slots are available. Making the reservations is the responsibility of the participant and the request must be noted on the registration form.

****Issues can be submitted electronically at:** www.stuttgart.army.mil/afap

Participant forms are available at ACS, or you can contact Caroline Orama at DSN 430-7176, CIV 0711-680-7176, or email: oramac@6asg.army.mil, for information concerning the AFAP Conference.



Patch Thrift Shop



Patch Thrift Shop is getting all "spruced" up for the upcoming holidays! We have holiday items and are currently accepting winter and holiday consignments. Merchandise has really moved lately, so every day brings many new consignment items. Come shop for great ideas for those special people in your life! We have great prices for great items! Our next open Saturday will be 7 December. Located in the lower level of Washington Center, we are open Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, consignments accepted until 1:00 pm (same hours for the Saturday dates). For more information call DSN 430-5510/civ 680-5510.

Mary Ellen Lyon
Thrift Shop Liason

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The new OCSC 2002-2003 Membership Rosters have arrived! I hope everyone attending the Mini-Bazaar picked up a copy. I will also be handing them out at the December and January functions. If you would like your roster before then, please contact me to arrange pick-up. We have 15 new members since the printing; their information will be e-mailed to all members separately. Please add them to your roster. There are several blank pages in the roster for this purpose.

New members are always welcome! Applications are available at the ACS, Thrift Shop and our website and at all OCSC functions. Completed applications can be mailed to me, Diane Murtha, Membership Chairman (address below and on the application) through the Military Post Office (MPS). I am looking forward to seeing everyone in December.

Diane Murtha
murtha123@hotmail.com or
CMR 480 BOX 2254
APO, AE 09128-2254

Roster Corrections

Please make the following corrections in your copy of the roster.
Angie Hunt: e-mail address should read jlhuntfamily6@t-online.de
Marlene Riccio: Marion, age 12 is actually Marcus. Sorry Marcus!



Babysitter Resource List

Do you have a teenager who is interested in babysitting? I am compiling a list of available sitters for use by our membership. Several members have already submitted their information. If you have a son or daughter that is interested in sitting please submit the following information to me via e-mail or MPS:

Sitter's name, age, address (local), phone number and if they have completed the Red Cross Babysitter course. You may also include any other pertinent information.

If your teen is interested in taking the Red Cross Babysitter course, please contact the Red Cross for the next course being offered. Cost is \$35.00. The American Red Cross phone number is: 07031-2818/2812

Diane Murtha
murtha123@hotmail.com or
CMR 480 BOX 2254
APO, AE 09128-2254



The Installation Volunteer Coordinators Office is starting a distribution list of volunteers that would like to be contacted per e-mail for volunteer opportunities when special events take place in our Stuttgart Community. If you are interested please provide your e-mail address to "Nicole Johnson" at either telephone - 0711-680-7176, snail mail - Unit 30401 APO AE 09107, or e-mail - johnsonn@6asg.army.mil and I will add you to the list!

Thanks!

Nicole Johnson

Army Community Service

DSN 430-7176/4315 Civ 0711-680-7176/4315



For a quick New Years Celebration visit the following site:

<http://doody36.home.attbi.com/liberty.htm>



DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The December Luncheon will be Stuffed Pork Tenderloin with rice, vegetable, salad, and dessert. The cost is \$13

The December program is going to be a Silent Raffle like we had last year. Bring an item to donate to the raffle table and get 10 free tickets.

Extra tickets will be available for a \$1 a strip

The December Luncheon will be on Tuesday the 17th beginning at 10:30. Reservations can be made by calling or emailing Londa Gemeinhardt at 0711 120 8461 gemeinhard@aol.com or Kelly Roth 0711 620 4862

The reservation deadline is Tuesday, December 10th. Cancellations must be made by Thursday December 12th.



OCSC ON-LINE RESERVATION POLICY

OCSC luncheons are held on the third Tuesday of each month except for a few special events which will be appropriately announced. Reservations must be made for all OCSC functions. There may be other events where reservations are necessary. A reminder will be in the monthly issue of the "Grüss Gott" OCSC newsletter. Guests are welcome to attend and are eligible for door prizes and chance drawings, however, International Bingo is for OCSC members only. Infant pre-crawlers are welcome at all OCSC Luncheons.

RESERVATION/CANCELLATION: A committee has been appointed to take reservations. Reservations must be made by Tuesday preceding the event. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness by calling only between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Should you need to cancel your reservation; you must do so before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event. **Unless your reservation is cancelled by e-mail or phone before 3:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the event, you, the OCSC member, will be responsible for paying the full cost of the event.** If the cost is not paid, the member will not be allowed to attend the Bingo event and loss of membership privileges will be enforced until payment is made in full.

To Make Reservations Call or E-mail:

Londa Gemeinhardt 0711-1208461

gemeinhard@aol.com

or

Kelly Roth 0711-6204862



Permanent Reservation Policy:

Permanent Reservations can be made at any OCSC function. To put your name on the permanent reservation list you must pay **\$12** towards your **last** luncheon up front. If you aren't able to attend a luncheon, you must cancel prior to the deadline. If you don't cancel, an email message or phone call will be sent to remind you to pay for your lunch. If you don't send payment for your lunch that you missed prior to that month's reservation deadline, your prepayment will be applied towards your lunch and your permanent reservations will be canceled. If the lunch that you miss is less than \$12 the difference will be considered a donation to the club. This new policy is to help you, the member keep from having to pay for multiple missed lunches!





There's a new website for health issues and it even has a link that the Army soldiers can find out what they must do to pass the AFPT.

<http://www.hooah4health.com>



HOSPITALITY

As members of OCSC, we are very important to one another. In light of that, we would like to remember each other on important occasions. If you know of anyone who is ill, injured, had a death in the family, recently given birth, or experienced any other momentous or sad occasion, please let me know, so that I can send a card. Please call Valerie Rydell at 0711-674-0770 or email rydellm@aol.com.

Valerie Rydell
Hospitality Chair



TRIPS & TOURS

Just a reminder about the Christmas Markets. Open to family and guests.

I will be accepting full payment for the following OCSC Christmas Markets next Tuesday evening at the mini - OCSC bazaar. Payment is US \$\$\$ only.

December 7, 2002 (Sat)

Salzburg Christmas Market & Sounds of Music Tour

Cost: \$40 OCSC Member and immediate family, other guest \$45/person

Trip will leave at approx. 0330 on 12/7 with early morning 12/8 arrival (?0100)

Departs Patch Washington Square

December 12, 2002 (Thurs)

ULM Christmas Market

Departs Patch Washington Square at 0800, with 1800 return

Cost: \$20 OCSC Member and immediate family, other guest \$25

December 19 (Thurs)

Ludwigsburg Christmas Market & Residence Schloss Tour

Departs Patch Washington Square at 0845, with 1800 return

Cost: \$25.00 OCSC Member and immediate family, other guest \$30

Therese DeSanto
07157-620488

STUTTGART OFFICER AND CIVILIAN SPOUSES' CLUB
TOURS AND TRIPS
Cancellation and Refund Policy

- ?? The Stuttgart Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club (hereinafter, "OCSC") is a private organization whose purpose is to promote charitable, educational, social, and recreational activities among its members and the Stuttgart community. The OCSC arranges tours and vacations to various countries for the benefit of its members and their bonafide guests. When OCSC arranges tours, it acts simply as an intermediary between members who sign up and the travel agency and does not generate any income for the OCSC.
- ?? There always remains the possibility that the tours may be cancelled for various reasons. Each individual tour will have cancellation policies as set by the tour company for each specific tour. Optional cancellation insurance, covering limited circumstances, can usually be purchased for a relatively small fee from travel agencies in Germany.
- ?? The Deputy Commander in Chief, the Chief of Staff, or their designee may cancel a trip prior to the date of departure, for security reasons. The OCSC is not authorized to absorb the cost to any member or guest as a result of any cancellation. OCSC will make every effort to negotiate with the travel agency for maximum reimbursement.
- ?? The undersigned has been advised of this policy and understands that OCSC is on an intermediary and makes no guarantee that a refund will be given in the event of a cancellation.

Printed Name

Signature and Date

RESERVATIONS

Reservations are made on "first-come, first served" basis! *Please note: Your deposit is your reservation!* The deposit amount and the price of the trip will be clearly announced and published.

- ?? Please do not ask the tour chairpersons to reserve you a place/seat without payment. They will say "NO" to your request!
- ?? Your deposit/trip payment is the only way to reserve a place on a OCSC trip or tour.

PAYMENTS AND DEPOSITS

Unless other wise indicated, all payments are to be made in US DOLLARS, cash only and the exact change. Some trips will require you to pay in full at the time of sign up. Extended trips will have deposit and final payment dates. The deposit for the extended trip will be your reservation.

WAITING LISTS

A waiting list will be kept for all filled tours. In the event of a cancellation, those on the waiting list will be given priority in order of sign-up. No payment is necessary to be placed on the waiting list.

REFUNDS

If the OCSC Trips and Tour Chairperson cancels a tour due to an insufficient number of participants all moneys and deposits will be refunded. Refunds are available during OCSC monthly scheduled events. Members must pick up their refunds within 60 days of cancellation. Failure to do so results in forfeiture of refund money

NON-MEMBERS

With the exception of the OCSC member's spouse and children all other OCSC guests will be assessed a \$10.00 non-member fee for overnight trips, and \$5 non-member fee for day trips.

CANCELLATIONS

Any member who cancels their reservation without an eligible replacement may forfeit their payment or deposit. For extended trips, forfeiture of the deposit depends on the penalties imposed by the tour company.

If you buy personal trip insurance, it usually will only cover death, illness or personal injury. Unfortunately, private trip insurance does not refund trip and tour money for deployment, PCS orders or personal emergencies. Members should be familiar with the details of their trip insurance policy. OCSC does not offer personal trip insurance.

The OCSC reserve the right to cancel or change any tour before departure for any reason, including insufficient number of participants, safety concerns, or inability of the tour company to fulfill requirements of the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Stuttgart OCSC and its members shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss caused by neglect or default of any company or person associated with any tour.

All services, prices and dates are subject change.

Please free to contact the OCSC Trips and Tours Chairperson if you have questions or concerns.

Therese DeSanto
Email:

07157-620-488
Shootcraps@aol.com